

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA- 576**

**John Morrow House**

**2702 Cotter Road**

**Millers, Baltimore County**

**1762**

**Private**

The log portion of the John Morrow House was constructed in 1762, in the earliest days of settlement around the crossroads community of Middletown in the Sixth District of Baltimore County. The dwelling and its additions are representative of vernacular buildings constructed throughout the county from the early 18th through the late 19th century. The earliest identified inhabitant of the structure was John Morrow, whose name accompanies the dwelling depicted in the 1850 county atlas. By that time, the nearby village of Middletown had already begun to thrive. By 1877, Middletown had grown from a small crossroads community into a rural center. In 1877, Nicholas Cotter, whose family lent its name to the road along which the house is located, was the dwelling's occupant. Although the community's 1881 population of only forty-nine inhabitants did not appear significant, the town was nevertheless in a strategic location between two crossroads along Middletown Road. Growth in and around Middletown slowed down in the early 20th century. The Cotter family remained occupants of the dwelling through 1915.

This vernacular dwelling, clad with stucco since the 1930s, was originally a two-bays-wide log structure with a three-bay wide addition. Located close to the road, the house fronts east on large, grassy lot with a pond to the north. Currently, it has a continuous side gable roof with asphalt shingles that connects its two sections. Seven 6/6 windows and two single-leaf, wood doors that are paneled with lights pierce the façade. All of the windows have wood sills and surrounds with square edges. A distinguishing feature of the building is the exterior end chimney on the north side of the original section. This shouldered chimney, which has been clad with stucco, centrally occupies half of the north elevation. Other attributes include a stuccoed central interior chimney, a circa 1990 wood portico, and a circa 1960 cinder block addition on the rear with a shed roof. This addition includes a cinder block chimney on the exterior end and a porch that is enclosed with one-light windows. A heavily altered stone springhouse is located to the east of the dwelling. Built in circa 1800, this four-bay wide building has a random rubble stone foundation and an overhanging gambrel roof with wood shingles. The barn is located west of the pond was built circa 1850. This structure has a random rubble stone foundation and board-and-batten siding. A circa 1990 hexagonal gazebo with a lattice balustrade and wood shingled pyramidal roof is also located on the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 576

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic John Morrow House (preferred), Nicholas Cotter House

other

### 2. Location

street and number 2702 Cotter Road not for publication

city, town Millers vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Carol Elaine Bailey

street and number 2707 Cotter Road telephone Not Available

city, town Miller state MD zip code 21102-2730

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 6394 folio 189

city, town Towson tax map 11 tax parcel 99 tax ID number 0925045080

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Contributing <u>3</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	Noncontributing <u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	Contributing <u>4</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	Noncontributing <u>1</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Contributing <u>4</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	Noncontributing <u>1</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	Contributing <u>4</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing <u>1</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Contributing <u>4</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	Noncontributing <u>1</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	Contributing <u>4</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	Noncontributing <u>1</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	Contributing <u>4</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	Noncontributing <u>1</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Contributing <u>4</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	Noncontributing <u>1</u>

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 576

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Erected in 1762, this vernacular dwelling, clad with stucco since the 1930s, was originally a two-bays-wide log structure with a three-bay wide addition. Located close to the road, the house fronts east on large, grassy lot with a pond to the north. Currently, it has a continuous side gable roof with asphalt shingles that connects its two sections. Seven 6/6 windows and two single-leaf, wood doors that are paneled with lights pierce the façade. All of the windows have wood sills and surrounds with square edges. A distinguishing feature of the building is the exterior end chimney on the north side of the original section. This shouldered chimney, which has been clad with stucco, centrally occupies half of the north elevation. Other attributes include a stuccoed central interior chimney, a circa 1990 wood portico, and a circa 1960 cinder block addition on the rear with a shed roof. This addition includes a cinder block chimney on the exterior end and a porch that is enclosed with one-light windows.

A heavily altered stone springhouse is located to the east of the dwelling. Built in circa 1800, this four-bay wide building has a random rubble stone foundation and an overhanging gambrel roof with wood shingles. The façade presents two wood, single-leaf doors of diagonal beaded board and two nine-light windows with square-edged-wood sills and surrounds.

The barn is located west of the pond was built circa 1850. This structure has a random rubble stone foundation and board-and-batten siding. The side gable roof with asphalt shingles overhangs above the four-leaf board-and-batten door.

A circa 1990 hexagonal gazebo with a lattice balustrade and wood shingled pyramidal roof is also located on the property.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 576

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1762-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1762, 1800 ca., 1960 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The log portion of the John Morrow House was constructed in 1762, in the earliest days of settlement around the crossroads community of Middletown in the Sixth District of Baltimore County. The dwelling and its additions are representative of vernacular buildings constructed throughout the county from the early 18<sup>th</sup> through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest identified inhabitant of the structure was John Morrow, whose name accompanies the dwelling depicted in the 1850 county atlas. By that time, the nearby village of Middletown had already begun to thrive, for the mid-century county atlas indicates that the town included a tavern and school house in addition to several residences along Middletown Road between Freeland and Oakland Road.<sup>1</sup> By 1877, Middletown had grown from a small crossroads community into a rural center. The town then included a physician's office, school house, Odd Fellows hall, a store and one "shop." In 1877, Nicholas Cotter, whose family lent its name to the road along which the house is located, was the dwelling's occupant.<sup>2</sup> Although the community's 1881 population of only forty-nine inhabitants did not appear significant, the town was nevertheless in a strategic location between two crossroads along Middletown Road.<sup>3</sup> Growth in and around Middletown slowed down in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Cotter family remained occupants of the dwelling through 1915.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

<sup>2</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>3</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 870.

<sup>4</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 576

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name New Freedom Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1762, the John Morrow House has been associated with the 5.17 acres of land known as tax parcel 99 of map 11 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 17, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



BALTIMORE COUNTY  
BA-1198  
20660 KEENEY MILL RD.  
BA-0519  
20701 KEENEY MILL RD.  
BA-1196  
20600 KEENEY MILL RD.

BA-1229  
20109 FREELAND ROAD

BA-1223  
EKLO SCHOOL  
20221 MIDDLETOWN RD.  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1222  
OLD FELLOWS LODGE  
20220 MIDDLETOWN RD  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0586  
20075 FREELAND ROAD  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0402  
VALLEY PAPER MILL HOUSE  
20008 VALLEY MILL ROAD  
FREELAND  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-576  
2702 COTTER ROAD  
MILLERS, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2556  
19706 MIDDLETOWN ROAD  
MIDDLETOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: NEW FREEDOM  
Scale: 1:24,000





BA 0576

2702 COTTER ROAD

MILLERS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD-CHPD

E ELEVATION





BA-576

2702 COTTER ROAD

MILLERS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD-SHO

NW CORNER

2 of 3



BA 0576

2702 LOTTER ROAD

MILLERS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2001

MD-SHD

BARN

3 of 3

**DISTRICT 6 (CONTINUED)**

CA- 576

**COTTER HOUSE** - Before 1850 - 2702 Cotter road, north side 0.8 mile west of Middletown Road. Possibly the John Morrow house of 1850 map. Shown as "Res." of N. Cotter in 1877 atlas. Nicholas Cotter listed himself as a native of County Kerry, having settled in this county, 1873. He was a farmer with 132 acres. Stone house, covered with stucco, vernacular style, five bays wide, spaced irregularly; house possibly built in two stages. Gable roof. Good condition. Also a sparing house with overhanging roof and two doors and two windows in roadside facade. House is set in stream valley; it was measured at 16 x 50 in 1918 tax list. Former owner: A. Yost, et al.